

A Website for All Seasons



Project Title	A Website for All Seasons
Project Summary	The International Visitor Leadership Program annually brings 5K rising global leaders to the US for 3 weeks of intense daytime policy discussions and a relaxed introduction to US culture. Google it! It's among the State Dept's best programs...but there's room for improvement. We have some ideas.
Country	United States
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	ECA/PE/V
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	2

Project Description

International Visitor Leadership programs (IVLPs) last just a few weeks, but they take months to prepare beforehand...and years of follow-up effort to maintain an energized corps of IVLP alumni. If done correctly, the IVLP has a profound professional and personal effect on its participants. The program confers upon them both a more textured view of the US and a long-term open-mindedness toward US policies that often make IVLP alumni steadfast partners and staunch supporters of the US.

From a State Department standpoint, it's an incredibly labor-intensive process. Bringing each of the 5,000 or so visitors to the US, crafting their US experiences (which typically encompass 4 or 5 cities) and maintaining contact with them post-IVLP involves dozens of people scattered around the globe. It's totally worth it--the results repay our efforts in spades--but we'd like to streamline the process.

What we have in mind is a website design that would enable us to shepherd International Visitors (IVs), as they are known, through every step of their experience.

When a program officer (PO) is assigned a project s/he would receive a blank template to populate. (For privacy reasons, it will have to live on a DOS platform.) S/he would plan the entire program via the website's password-protected back end, incorporating the international participants' biographies and similar information for the US experts with whom they will meet. As the itinerary gelled, the PO would grant access to the partner organizations planning each stop so they could enter useful city-specific information about the arrival airport, hotel, sites of interest, emergency contacts, etc. Each site could feature as part of its standard language helpful reminders about obtaining passports, visa timetables, international travel considerations, suggested packing lists,

DHS arrival procedures, etc.

Subsequently, the PO would invite participants to submit any publications, blog entries, etc., that they consider germane to the program's themes via the site's front end, which would also be password protected. Via the site, those submissions would familiarize participants with one another and facilitate discussion prior to the program. This will help the PO hone the meeting itinerary to ensure the program fulfills the goals of its participants. The PO will also encourage US interlocutors to join the discussion and submit via the same password-protected front gateway any publications they believe would stimulate discussion and foster more relevant face-to-face meetings.

Post-visit the site would be cross-linked to similarly themed IVLP sites from preceding years, enabling the latest batch of participants to tap into their predecessors' expertise while offering earlier IVs the chance to refresh their professional knowledge via access to the latest from experts from the US and around the world. Each IVLP would thus automatically revitalize the alumni network. That's the plan

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

None

Language Requirements

None